

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A parts ordering system having a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, wherein said second domain includes:

receiving means for receiving an order from the first domain, the received order being an order for a part of a product to be produced by the production line;

judging means for judging a kind of the order;

machining planning means for devising a machining plan based upon the judged order;

expansion means for expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan;

order planning means for generating parts order information to be orders placed based on each component part information expanded by said expansion means and a pre-determined minimum order number data of each component part to be required to produce the product stored in a database, and;

communication means for communicating the parts order information generated by said order planning means to the third domain,

wherein said communication means prevents the first domain and the third domain from communicating the order to each other,

wherein the pre-determined minimum order number is the minimum number of parts purchased decided in advance between ~~the~~ an ordering side and delivery side owing to limitations defined by ~~the~~ a number of packages,

wherein said first domain, second domain and third domain each have means for issuing an order, means for receiving an order, means for devising a machining plan based upon the order received, means for performing expansion, into each component part, in accordance with the machining plan, means for devising an ordering plan for a part that has been expanded into its component parts, means for ordering a part expanded into individual parts units based upon the ordering plan, means for reading data from a database in accordance with the order for the part, and means for writing the read data to the database,

wherein a plurality of connections are made possible on a network in a tree structure.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The system according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein said means for receiving an order has means for making a comparison with data, which has been retained in a database, to determine whether an order is a new order, a modified order or re-transmission of the same order.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The system according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein said means for devising a machining plan has means for comparing a designated delivery date of

a received order and planned production date retained in a database, and means for scheduling an expected production date based upon results of the comparison.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The system according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein said means for performing expansion into each component part has means for performing expansion in units of individual parts constructing a manufactured product based upon a received order, and means for calculating the number of parts.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The system according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein said means for devising an ordering plan has means for comparing a number of parts contained in inventory and a number of parts required, and means for calculating minimum units of an order based upon results of the comparison.

Claim 7 (Original): The system according to claim 1, wherein said first domain, which corresponds to an ordering starting point, has means for issuing an order in accordance with an order input, and said third domain, which corresponds to an ordering end point, has means for receiving an order in response to the issuance of the order.

Claim 8 (Original): The system according to claim 1, wherein said first, second and third domains are connected in a nodeless tree structure, and an order for each component part processed by said first domain is communicated to the third domain without processing being duplicated by the expanding means of said second domain.

Claims 9-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

stopping means for comparing the amount of specific parts contained in inventory stored in the database and a required amount of specific parts obtained by said expansion means, and stopping the communication of an order to the third domain in a case where the amount of specific parts contained in inventory is greater, by a prescribed amount, than the required amount of specific parts.

Claim 12-20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A parts ordering method whereby a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, deliver and receive orders, comprising:

a receiving step at which the second domain receives an order from the first domain, the received order being an order for a part of a product to be produced by the production line;

a judging step at which the second domain judges a kind of the order;

a machining planning step at which the second domain devises a machining plan based upon the judged order;

an expanding step at which the second domain expands, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan;

an order planning step at which the second domain generates parts order information to be orders placed based on each component part information expanded in said expanding step and a pre-determined minimum order number data of each component part to be required to produce the product stored in a database; and

a communication step at which the second domain communicates the parts order information generated by said order planning means to the third domain,

wherein said communication step prevents the first domain and the third domain from communicating the order to each other,

wherein the pre-determined minimum order number is the minimum number of parts purchased decided in advance between ~~the~~ an ordering side and delivery side owing to limitations defined by ~~the~~ a number of packages,

wherein said first domain, second domain and third domain each perform a step of issuing an order, a step of receiving an order, a step of devising a machining plan based upon the order received, a step of performing expansion into each component part, in accordance with the machining plan, a step of devising an ordering plan for a part that has been expanded into its component parts, a step of ordering a part expanded into individual parts units based upon the ordering plan, a step of reading data from a database in accordance with the order for the part, and a step of writing the read data to the database,

wherein a plurality of connections are made possible on a network in a tree structure.

Claims 22-36 (Canceled).

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): A parts ordering method whereby a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, deliver and receive orders, comprising:

an expanding step of expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to an order that has been received from the first domain, the received order being an order for a part of a product to be produced by the production line;

an order planning step of generating parts order information to be orders placed based on each component part information expanded in said expansion step and a pre-determined minimum order number data of each component part to be required to produce the product stored in a database, and

communication step of communicating the parts order information generated in said order planning step to the third domain corresponding to each component part expanded in said expansion step,

wherein the pre-determined minimum order number is the minimum number of parts purchased decided in advance between the an ordering side and delivery side owing to limitations defined by the a number of packages,

wherein said first domain, second domain and third domain each perform a step of issuing an order, a step of receiving an order, a step of devising a machining plan based upon the order received, a step of performing expansion, into each component part, in accordance with the machining plan, a step of devising an ordering plan for a part that has been expanded into its

component parts, a step of ordering a part expanded into individual parts units based upon the ordering plan, a step of reading data from a database in accordance with the order for the part, and a step of writing the read data to the database,

wherein a plurality of connections are made possible on a network in a tree structure.

Claim 38 (New): A parts ordering system having a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure, wherein said second domain includes:

expanding means for expanding, into its component parts, an order that has been received from the first domain; and

communication means for communicating, to the third domain, the order for each component part expanded by said expanding means,

wherein said first domain, second domain and third domain each have means for issuing an order, means for receiving an order, means for devising a machining plan based upon the order received, means for performing expansion, into each component part, in accordance with the machining plan, means for devising an ordering plan for a part that has been expanded into its component parts, means for ordering a part expanded into individual parts units based upon the ordering plan, means for reading data from a database in accordance with the order for the part, and means for writing the read data to the database,

wherein a plurality of connections are made possible on a network in a tree structure.

Claim 39 (New): The system according to claim 38, wherein said means for devising a machining plan has means for comparing a designated delivery date of a received

order and planned production date retained in a database, and means for scheduling an expected production date based upon results of the comparison.

Claim 40 (New): The system according to claim 38, wherein said means for performing expansion into each component part has means for performing expansion in units of individual parts constructing a manufactured product based upon a received order, and means for calculating the number of parts.

Claim 41 (New): The system according to claim 38, wherein said means for devising an ordering plan has means for comparing a number of parts contained in inventory and a number of parts required, and means for calculating minimum units of an order based upon results of the comparison.

Claim 42 (New): A parts ordering method whereby a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure deliver and receive orders, comprising:

an expanding step at which the second domain expands, into its component parts, an order that has been received from the first domain; and

a communication step at which the second domain communicates, to the third domain, an order for each component part expanded at the expanding step,

wherein said first domain, second domain and third domain each perform a step of issuing an order, a step of receiving an order, a step of devising a machining plan based upon the order received, a step of performing expansion into each component part, in accordance with the machining plan, a step of devising an ordering plan for a part that has been expanded into its

component parts, a step of ordering a part expanded into individual parts units based upon the ordering plan, a step of reading data from a database in accordance with the order for the part, and a step of writing the read data to the database,

wherein a plurality of connections are made possible on a network in a tree structure.

Claim 43 (New): The method according to claim 42, wherein said step of devising a machining plan includes a step of comparing a designated delivery date of a received order and planned production date retained in a database, and a step of scheduling an expected production date based upon results of the comparison.

Claim 44 (New): The method according to claim 42, wherein said step of performing expansion into each component part includes a step of performing expansion in units of individual parts constructing a manufactured product based upon a received order, and a step of calculating the number of parts.

Claim 45 (New): The method according to claim 42, wherein said step of devising an ordering plan includes a step of comparing a number of parts contained in inventory and a number of parts required and a step of calculating minimum units of an order based upon results of the comparison.

Claim 46 (New): A parts ordering method whereby a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure, each domain being a unit of processing

in a computer system corresponding to a working unit of a production line, deliver and receive orders, comprising:

an expanding step of expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to an order that has been received from the first domain, the received order being an order for a part of a product to be produced by the production line; and

communication step of communicating, to the third domain corresponding to each component part expanded by said expansion means, an order in units of individual parts for each component part expanded by said expanding step,

wherein said first domain, second domain and third domain each perform a step of issuing an order, a step of receiving an order, a step of devising a machining plan based upon the order received, a step of performing expansion, into each component part, in accordance with the machining plan, a step of devising an ordering plan for a part that has been expanded into its component parts, a step of ordering a part expanded into individual parts units based upon the ordering plan, a step of reading data from a database in accordance with the order for the part, and a step of writing the read data to the database,

wherein a plurality of connections are made possible on a network in a tree structure.

Claim 47 (New): The method according to claim 46, wherein said step of devising a machining plan includes a step of comparing a designated delivery date of a received order and planned production date retained in a database, and a step of scheduling an expected production date based upon results of the comparison.

Claim 48 (New): The method according to claim 46, wherein said step of performing expansion into each component part includes a step of performing expansion in units of individual parts constructing a manufactured product based upon a received order, and a step of calculating the number of parts.

Claim 49 (New): The method according to claim 46, wherein said step of devising an ordering plan includes a step of comparing a number of parts contained in inventory and a number of parts required, and a step of calculating minimum units of an order based upon results of the comparison.